

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

### ABSTRACT

**Public Services** - Treasuries and Accounts Department – Irregular sanctions and disbursements of Post-Metric scholarships to Scheduled caste students of certain colleges of Suryapet and other Mandals in Nalgonda District – Departmental Proceedings against Sri.D.Raghava Rao, the then Assistant Accounts Officer O/o DD, Social Welfare and I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District and presently Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 - Imposition of a punishment of withholding of 5% of his pension for a period of (3) years under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Orders – Issued.

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### FINANCE (ADMN.I.VIG.) DEPARTMENT

**G.O.Rt.No.4212**

**Dated: 27-10-2008.**

**Read the following:**

1. Commr. of Social Welfare Lr.Rc.No.A1/14051/2001, dt.21-12-2001.
2. Govt.Memo.No.1540/217/A2/Admn.I.Vig/2001, dated 1.1.2002.
3. DTA Lr.No.K4(B)/23830/2001-(2), dt. 29-01-2001.
4. G.O.Rt.No.1505, Finance (Admn.I.Vig) Deptt., dt. 22-06-2002.
5. Govt. Memo. No. 1540/217/A2/Admn.I.Vig/2001, dated 19-10-2002.
6. DTA Lr.No. K4/23830/2001, dated 11.6.2003
7. G.O.Ms.No.497, Finance (Admn.I.Vig) Deptt., dt. 20-11-2003.
8. G.O.Rt.No.2686, Finance (Admn.I.Vig) Deptt., dt. 21-11-2003.
9. DTA Lr.No.K4/23830/2001, dated 27.01.2004
10. G.O.Rt.No.1435, Finance (Admn.I.Vig) Deptt., dt. 21-04-2004.
11. Dr.P.Brahmananda Rao, CAO and E.O.Report, dated 07-04-2005.
12. Govt. Memo. No. 1540/217/A2/Admn.I.Vig/2001, dated 03-10-2006.
13. DTA Lr.No.KII (7)/23830/2001, dated 16-11-2006 along with explanation of Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.). Dated 2-11-2006.
14. Govt. Memo. No. 1540/217/A2/Admn.I.Vig/2001, dated 11-04-2008.
15. DTA Lr.No.KII (7)/23830/2001, dated 19-05-2008 along with explanation of Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.), Dated 11-05-2008.
16. DTA Lr.No.K.II (7) 23830/2001, dt. 30-6-2008 along with Proforma Particulars of Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.).
17. Govt. Letter No. 1540/217/A2/Admn.I.Vig/2001, dt. 24-07-2008. Addressed to Secretary, APPSC, Hyderabad.
18. Secretary, APPSC Lr. No.1103/RT-I/3/2008, dt. 25-08-2008.

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### ORDER:-

In the reference 1<sup>st</sup> read above, the Commissioner of Social Welfare has reported that Scholarships were introduced by the Government to advance the Socio-economic condition advancement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society. Pre/Post Matric Scholarships are given to eligible students to pursue their studies without financial difficulties. Guidelines were issued vide G.O.Ms.No.88, dated.8-6-1990 of Social Welfare (Q2) Department. The District Social Welfare Officers were declared as sanctioning authorities of Post-Matric scholarships in respect of the students of Scheduled Castes as per the above G.O. and vide G.O.Ms.No.157, dated.5-7-1986 the duties of the District Social Welfare Officer were specified.

2. Joint Directors, Zone-III & Zone-V of the Commissioner, Social Welfare, Department have conducted a preliminary enquiry on allegations published in "Eenadu" (Nalgonda edition) on 1-12-2001 and 3-12-2001 connected to misuse of the post Matric scholarships and manipulation in the disbursement of both fresh and renewals of scholarships using bogus caste certificates by some private college managements of

Suryapet Revenue Division during 2001-2002. There are 185 colleges in Nalgonda District and 47 colleges are under Suryapet Revenue Division and 20 colleges are located in Suryapet town. The enquiry officers have conducted a random verification of the genuineness of the sanctioned scholarships in certain private institutions i.e. Ratna and Little Flower Junior Colleges of Suryapet. In the enquiry, 12 students of Ratna Junior College, Suryapet, to whom scholarships were sanctioned in 1999-2000 and 14 students to whom scholarships were sanctioned in 2000-2001, did not belong to Scheduled Castes. The signatures of the students in the application forms and in the disbursement register were found not tallied. Similarly, in the enquiry it was found that 51 students of Little Flower Junior College, Suryapet, to whom scholarships were sanctioned during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 did not belong Scheduled Castes. The failure of the District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda in conducting proper verification of the applications, caused to sanction and disbursement of scholarships to the in eligible students in violation of the guidelines issued by the Government in G.O.Ms.No.157, dated.5-7-1986 and G.O.Ms.No.88, dated.8-7-1990 of Social Welfare (Q2) department, and thus caused loss to the exchequer.

3. In the preliminary enquiry it was found that Sri.D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad, while working as Assistant Accounts Officer O/o Deputy Director, Social Welfare acted as I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District during the period from 30-10-1998 to 23-3-2003 has failed in proper verification of the applications of the scholarships submitted by the private institutions and has not made efforts to visit the private institutions, which is a part of his duties as I/c D.S.W.O. and sanctioned scholarships to the fictitious students and caused loss to the Government.

4. Government, after careful consideration of the preliminary enquiry report and relevant material evidences, placed Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer under suspension vide G.O.4<sup>th</sup> read above and initiated departmental proceedings against Sri D.Raghava Rao, the then Assistant Accounts Officer O/o DD, Social Welfare and I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District and presently Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad, vide G.O. 7<sup>th</sup> read above under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. The following Charges were framed against, Sri D.Raghava Rao, the then Assistant Accounts Officer O/o Deputy Director, Social Welfare and I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District and presently Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad.

#### **ARTICLE OF CHARGE-I:**

That the said Sri.D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad while working as Assistant Accounts Officer O/o DD, Social Welfare and I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District has committed certain irregularities in sanction of post-matric scholarships towards Fresh and Renewal Scholarships to students of Little Flower Junior College, Suryapet without proper verification, as indicated below:

Sl.no	Year	Renewal/Fresh	No. of students	Amount sanctioned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) Rs.
1)	1998-99	Renewal	45	1,39,780/-
		Fresh	48	1,23,100/-
2)	1999-2000	Renewal	48	1,75,900/-
		Fresh	105	2,89,950/-

Thus, Sri.D.Raghava Rao, the then Assistant Accounts Officer and Incharge District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda, exhibited lack of devotion in discharging his legitimate duties, thereby causing huge financial loss to Government.

**ARTICLE OF CHARGE –II:**

That the said Sri.D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retired) O/o the Project Officer, D.P.E.P., Hyderabad while working as Assistant Accounts Officer O/o DD, Social Welfare and I/c District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District has committed certain irregularities in sanction of post-Matric scholarships towards Fresh and Renewal Scholarships to students of Ratna Junior College, Suryapet without proper verification, as indicated below:

SL.no	Year	Renewal/Fresh	No. of students	Amount sanctioned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) Rs.
1)	1998-99	Renewal	18	56,700/-
		Fresh	26	66,300/-
2)	1999-2000	Renewal	26	93,613/-
		Fresh	81	2,42,750/-

Thus, Sri.D.Raghava Rao, the then Assistant Accounts Officer, O/o the D.D., Social Welfare and Incharge District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District, exhibited lack of devotion in discharging his legitimate duties, thereby causing huge financial loss to Government.

**ARTICLE OF CHARGE---III:**

That Sri.D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retired) while working as Assistant Accounts Officer, O/o the D.D., Social Welfare and Incharge District Social Welfare Officer, Nalgonda District has failed to verify the receipt of full acquittances while sanctioning renewal scholarships for the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Thus, it is proved beyond doubt that he failed to adhere to the rules in vogue and acted in a complacent manner due to which the private college management's have resorted to misappropriate the funds.

5. Government have appointed Dr. P.Brahmananda Rao, Chief Accounts Officer, O/o. the Director General & Inspector General of Police, Hyderabad as Inquiry Officer and Sri G.Shiva Kumar Reddy, Deputy Director, District Treasury, Nalgonda as Presenting Officer to conduct regular enquiry into the charges framed against Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.) vide G.O.10<sup>th</sup> read above. The Inquiry Officer, furnished his report vide reference 11<sup>th</sup> read above. In the inquiry, the charges I and II are held not proved and the Charge-III is held proved. The findings of Inquiry Officer in respect of Charge-III are as detailed below:

**Findings of the Inquiry Officer:**

**Charge No-III:** The DSWO shall test check the distribution of scholarships as prescribed in G.O.Ms.No.157, dt. 5-7-86. As seen from the acquittances, majority of signatures in the acquittance register did not tally with the signatures of the students on the applications for scholarships made by them. The acquittances reveal that there is no check by any of the departmental officers on the correctness or otherwise of the disbursements to the students with reference to the applications of the students. As in charge DSWO being sanctioning authority of Post-Matric Scholarships, Sri D.Raghava Rao has not, at least, test checked the disbursement of scholarships through acquaintances with reference to the signatures on the applications for scholarships that were sent to him for sanction of scholarships. Thus, Charge No. III that Sri D.Raghava Rao, the then AAO and Incharge DSWO, Nalgonda District exhibited lack of devotion in discharging his legitimate duties; thereby, causing huge financial loss to Government is proved.

6. Government, after careful examination of the Charges framed against Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.), his written statement of defence and the findings of the Enquiry Officer found that the Charge-III framed against him is held proved substantially and furnished a copy of the Enquiry report to the Charged Officer vide reference 12<sup>th</sup> read above.

7. The Director of Treasuries and Accounts has forwarded the explanation of Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.), vide reference 13<sup>th</sup> read above, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.), in his explanation, has stated that it is the responsibility of departmental officials i.e. Principal/ASWO concerned to pay scholarships to the genuine students after verification of photo identity and signature on the original application form. The Principal/ASWO have failed to verify the required documents before payment of scholarships. The duties and responsibilities of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and DSWO are of equal importance. There was no justification in entrusting the duties to him as I/c DSWO to regular months together. As regular Drawing Disbursing Officer, it was not possible for him to concentrate on cross verification of signatures on the acquittances with the signatures on the original application forms of the students. However, he had conducted test check of signatures on the acquittances. Hence, he has requested to drop the charge-III, by taking into account of his responsibilities as Drawing Disbursing Officer.

8. Government, after careful examination of the explanation of the Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.), with reference to the findings of the Enquiry Officer and other connected material found that the explanation of the Charged Officer is not convincing. As per G.O.Ms.No.157, dated 05-07-1986 of Social Welfare Department, the District Social Welfare Officer shall test-check the distribution of scholarships. The Inquiry Officer has found that the majority of signatures in the acquittances did not tally with the signatures of the students on the applications of scholarships made by them. The Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, as in-charge DSWO, being sanctioning authority of Post-Matric scholarships, should atleast, have conducted a test check of the disbursements of scholarships with reference to the signatures on the acquittances and scholarships applications, the misappropriation of scholarships could be avoided. Hence, the Charge-III framed against him is held proved substantially. Therefore, Government came to a provisional conclusion for imposition of a punishment of withholding of 5% of his pension for a period of (3) year on the Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.) under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, a final show cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.) vide reference 14<sup>th</sup> read above.

9. The Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer submitted his explanation vide reference 15<sup>th</sup> read above. The Charged Officer stated that he had conducted random check of acquittances and requested to reduce the punishment to withholding of 5% pension for a period of (2) years instead of (3) years and release his pensionary benefits at an early date.

10. Government, after careful examination of the Charges, written statement of defence and explanations of the Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.) with reference to the findings of the Enquiry Officer in detail found that Sri D.Raghava Rao, as in-charge District Social Welfare Officer, being sanctioning authority of Post-Matric scholarships failed to conduct atleast a test check of the distribution of scholarships as per the guide lines issued in G.O.Ms.No.157, dt. 5-7-86 of Social Welfare Deptment. Further, the inquiry revealed that the majority of signatures of the students in the acquittances did not tallied with the signatures of the students on the applications of scholarships. Had he conducted the test check of the signatures of the students, the embezzlement of Government money could have been avoided. Therefore, Government came to a provisional conclusion for imposition of a punishment of withholding of 5% of his pension for a period of (3) years on him under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 and referred the matter to the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad for their concurrence vide letter 18<sup>th</sup> read above.

11. The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad in their letter 19<sup>th</sup> read above, have concurred with the proposal of the Government for imposition of a punishment of withholding of 5% of pension for a period of (3) years on the Charged Officer, Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.).

12. Government, accordingly, impose a penalty of withholding of 5% of pension for a period of three (3) years on Sri D.Raghava Rao, Accounts Officer (Retd.).

13. The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Hyderabad shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

14. The G.O. is available on Internet and can be accessed at the address <http://www.goir.ap.gov.in>.

**Dr.SAMEER SHARMA**  
**SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FP)**

To

The individual through the Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Hyderabad.

The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, A.P., Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Accountant General, A.P., Hyderabad.

The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, A.P., Hyderabad

The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Hyderabad.

SF/SC

**:: FORWARDED BY ORDER ::**

**SECTION OFFICER**